

Idaho Currents

Retailer Introduces Energy Star Manufactured Homes to Consumers

By Linda Cawley, IDWR Information Specialist

Ron Balderson believes that if his product is good enough for his customers, it's good enough for him.

Balderson is the owner of Home Showcase North – a company that sells manufactured homes in Cascade and surrounding Valley County. This summer Balderson learned about the new electrically heated Energy Star® manufactured home program. He was so impressed with the new upgraded energy conservation features that he ordered one of the homes to serve as his office in Cascade.

Home Showcase North has been selling Super Good Cents® manufactured homes for more than a year, but with the new electric option Energy Star homes, Balderson knows he can give his customers an even better product. Each electrically heated home is built according to prescribed energy efficiency specifications under the Northwest Energy Efficient Manufactured (NEEM™) home program.

Other energy features include ceiling insulation between R38 and R49, depending on the type of ceiling, R21 insulation in the walls, R33 insulation in the floors, Low-E/vinyl windows, a 25-watt whole house ventilation fan, an energy-efficient water heater, an Energy Star programmable thermostat, and an Energy Star dishwasher.

Energy Star advantage

Kit Homebuilders West of Caldwell constructed Balderson's home/office according to Energy Star stan-

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Each Energy Star manufactured home is thoroughly inspected before it leaves the plant at Kit Homebuilders West of Caldwell. Pictured are Tim O'Leary (left), Idaho Energy Division, and Kris Robinson, quality control for Kit Homebuilders West, as they inspect the windows near the front porch entry way. The home was sided with logs to blend with the environment in Cascade. *(Photo by Bob Minter)*

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dards, a step up from manufactured homes that have been built to Super Good Cents and Natural Choice (gas heated) standards for the past 20 years or longer.

Five plants in Idaho build energy-efficient manufactured homes; however Kit Homebuilders West is the first plant in the state to offer the new electric Energy Star certified homes.

"This is a big jump forward for Kit as well as Idaho's manufactured home industry," says Bob Minter, senior energy specialist with the Idaho Energy Division.

The Idaho Energy Division works in cooperation with state energy offices in Montana, Oregon, and Washington to promote energy-efficient manufactured homes through the NEEM program.

Each energy office provides training, technical assistance, home certification, third party home inspection, and database management for regional utilities and 20 participating manufacturers, including Idaho's five manufacturing plants. The four state energy offices also jointly promote marketing programs, such as "House Full of Savings," with the support of NEEM.



Home Showcase North in Cascade will use this Energy Star manufactured home as a display model and office. Kit Homebuilders West of Caldwell built the log-sided home according to Energy Star standards. (Photo by Bob Minter)

"The program ensures that manufactured homes meet the regional NEEM energy efficiency standards, the region's utilities reap the conservation benefits, and the homeowners realize reduced utility costs and improved home comfort," says Minter.

So far, Home Showcase North is the only retailer to order the new electric Energy Star option. A total of 30 retailers in Idaho offer Super Good Cents electric and Energy Star electric or gas heated manufactured homes under a partnership program with the Energy Division.

As part of the program, retailers receive marketing assistance and training for their sales consultants so they can explain the energy conservation advantages to their customers. Each state energy office also provides retailer support for customer assistance on energy-related problems on a SGC or Energy Star manufactured home.

Buying a manufactured home

"Purchasing a new home is one of the biggest decisions homeowners ever make," says Minter. "Choosing a home built to Super Good Cents/Energy Star specifications helps to ensure that people are getting the most energy-efficient home on the market today.

"No other manufactured home can provide the comfort and savings that people will find in a certified Super Good Cents/Energy Star home," Minter adds. "Typically the owner investment in the efficiency option pays back in utility savings within three to four years."

Energy Star homes are certified by the state after passing a rigorous inspection process conducted by state contract inspectors. These inspections ensure that the homes are built according to NEEM specifications for consistent energy efficient quality. Random field performance checks are also conducted at the site.

As part of the program, participating utility companies provide financial incentives to buyers, ranging from \$300 to \$1,000, and to many of the retailers. Twelve Idaho electric utility companies support and participate in the program.

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"We are excited that Idaho manufacturers have embraced these new Energy Star standards," says Anne Alenskis, spokesperson for Idaho Power, one of the participating utility companies. (See complete list on page 3.) "We also are pleased that our customers can ask for Energy Star in both manufactured and site-built housing."

To learn more about Super Good Cents/Energy Star manufactured homes, call the Idaho Energy Hotline, **1-800-334-SAVE**, or see the Energy Division's website at www.idwr.idaho.gov/energy.

Idaho Utility Companies

Twelve utility companies in Idaho participate in the Energy Star/Super Good Cents Manufactured Homes programs by providing financial incentives to manufactured home buyers and some retailers.

- Clearwater Power Company, Lewiston
- City of Declo, Declo
- East End Mutual Electric, Rupert
- Fall River Elect Cooperative, Inc., Ashton
- Farmers Electric Company, Rupert
- City of Heyburn, Heyburn
- Idaho Falls Power, Idaho Falls
- Idaho Power Company, Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello
- Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Hayden
- Lost River Electric Cooperative, Mackay
- Northern Lights Inc., Sagle, Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint
- City of Rupert, Rupert

In addition, 40 utility companies in Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming participate in the program.

Farm Bill Grant Leads To New Wind Park

It's like "taking lemons and turning them into lemonade," said Idaho Senator Brent Hill, referring to the Burley Butte Wind Park.

Hill, co-chairman of the legislative interim committee on energy, environment and technology, joined local, state, and federal officials at the project announcement for a new wind park southwest of Burley in July. The facility will be the first commercial wind generation project in Idaho to be partially funded by the 2002 Farm Bill.

Leroy Jarolimek is the first person in Idaho to receive a USDA grant to be used to produce wind generation. The initial funds were used for a 20-kilowatt net-metered turbine at his son's house southwest of Burley.

A new 10.5-megawatt wind park, located on Jarolimek's property, will be Cassia County's first commercial wind project. Work will begin in October and the wind farm is scheduled to be on-line in December.

Initial Interest

Jarolimek first became interested in wind power about four years ago when the Idaho Energy Division conducted a series of workshops around the state. As soon as he received an anemometer on loan from the Energy Division to measure the wind, he knew his farm would make a good site for wind turbines.

"The wind is always blowing here," said Bruce Newcomb, Idaho Speaker of the House and District 27 representative. "It stands to reason this is a good place."

As part of the opening ceremony, Jeff James of the U.S. Department of Energy presented Jarolimek with an award for his efforts to bring wind generation to Idaho and Cassia County.

Montana-based Exergy Development Group, the same company that brought the Fossil Gulch Wind Park on-line earlier this year near Hagerman, will develop the project. Like Fossil Gulch, the Burley Butte facility will feature seven 1.5-megawatt turbines.

Manufactured Home Retailers Offer Energy-Efficient Option to Customers

As manufactured homes become more inviting to consumers, retailers are promoting the energy component of the homes.

Some 30 Idaho retailers and two retailers just outside Idaho have partnership agreements with the Idaho Energy Division. Each retailer offers Super Good Cents® and Energy Star homes to their customers. SGC homes are electrically heated and Energy Star certified homes are heated with either electricity or natural gas.

Idaho Retailers:

Blackfoot

20th Century Ford, Inc.

Boise

Home Showcase, LLC
Treasure Valley Homes

Caldwell

For-Ward Homes, Inc.
Jensen's Homes

Cascade

Home Showcase North

Chubbuck

20th Century Ford, Inc.

Filer

Westwind Homes

Fruitland

Jensen's Homes
Valley Home Center
FRC Fruitland

Hayden

Appleway Homes

Heyburn

Home Sweet Homes

Idaho Falls

C&R Homes
Ranch Homes
Century Homes

Jerome

Jerome Homes
Y-R Homes
Magic Homes, Inc.



Juliaetta

R&R Homes

Mountain Home

Value Home Center

Nampa

Jensen's Homes
Nashua Village
United Family Homes of Nampa
Clayton Homes

Orofino

Clearwater Homes

Post Falls

Mobile Corral
Peter's Homes

Sagle

Independence Home Center

St. Anthony

Hathaway's, Inc.

Twin Falls

Oakwood Homes

Outside Idaho:

Clarkston, WA

Sunrise Home Center

Elko, NV

Jerome Homes

Super Good Cents®
All in all, it's just a **better** house.

